THE 2013 ICOYC CRUISE IN OUTLINE

A MOST SUCCESSFUL EVENT

This year’s Summer Cruise was brilliantly supported by NRV and took the participants around the southern Danish Isles. Members of eight ICOYC yacht clubs in fifteen yachts had the chance to appreciate the superb cruising area of the southern Baltic with small Danish towns and villages nestling comfortably into beautiful landscape. These towns and villages are best appreciated from the sea and it is good to enjoy them in the company of fellow sailors.

I have always liked the southern Baltic, having first sailed there over fifty years ago, so I was very pleased when Wolfgang Weber and the NRV flag officers agreed to host our annual ICOYC event there. I was not disappointed. The events were perfectly organised from the first welcoming party in the most hospitable Flensburg Sailing Club to the last dinner in Gluecksburg Castle, owned by the family of NRV’s Rear Commodore, Alexander Holstein. We enjoyed wonderful locations, good sailing and great company. Many friendships were made among the various yachts.

The weather helped. The first five days kept to the tradition of the ICOYC Cruises always having good weather with light winds and hot sunshine. However, it then started to blow hard and in the last two days we were reminded that the sea can be challenging and even in protected waters we had to draw on all our experience as sailors. It gave us lots to talk about when we finally got to the shore.

There were many highlights during the week-long Cruise. One was a memorable BBQ in Hørup Hav after our first day at sea. There was superb food from NRV, cooked by club chefs who had travelled all the way from Hamburg to Denmark. Then we enjoyed visiting Marstal and Svendborg before working our way through narrow channels to Ærøskøbing, the perfect Danish town that has changed little over centuries. There the club organised an excellent Danish buffet in the courtyard of an old inn. After a sail to Faaborg the fleet headed back towards the mainland in rough conditions and reached the small harbour of Dyvig, where we had another excellent dinner, this time in a luxury hotel. It was a Cruise of contrasts.

The ICOYC Cruises have two great benefits. One is that all those taking part are from yacht clubs that have a similar standing around the world, so we all enjoy each other’s company and have much to discuss. The other is that the organising club knows just where to go and they often have an inside track enabling us to get to the very best places in each area. In this Cruise the best was saved for last and the final reception and dinner was in the fairy-tale Gluecksburg Castle, largely surrounded by a lake and trees. We had personal guided tours, hearing at first hand about the family history of Prince Alexander, and discovering that his family was related to almost all the royal houses of Europe. It was a great finale to a superb Cruise.

We are now planning the 2014 event. All those who came in 2013 agreed that these Cruises should continue as an important part of the ICOYC calendar. Importantly they are open to all the members of ICOYC clubs, not just their flag officers.

John Stork
Past President
Chairman, Interclub Activities Committee